March 20, 2020

Dear Linden Community Schools Residents:

All of us are experiencing extraordinary times. The Coronavirus pandemic is impacting everyone and forcing all residents, families, businesses, and our school district to make some tough decisions.

The Governor’s Executive Order required us to close schools through April 6. One result of this closure is that Michigan students are losing valuable instructional time. However, to protect the health and safety of our students, most people agree that closing Michigan’s schools was the right thing to do.

Now, we are being asked by the Michigan Secretary of State to move our May 5th bond proposal to an election that will be held in August or November. The rationale for rescheduling the election is to help reduce the spread of the Coronavirus by avoiding large gatherings and social contact at polling places on Election Day. The Secretary of State’s request was not a mandate. However, if we opted to keep the bond proposal on the May 5th ballot, Linden Community Schools residents would be restricted to voting by Absentee Ballot only.

To do our part in preventing the spread of the Coronavirus, the Linden Board of Education has agreed to postpone the May election until the August 4th election.

Postponing the May election was a decision that was difficult as we feel the bond projects identified will have an immediate positive impact on our students, staff, and community. However, we also believe postponing the election until August has some benefits for our community. First, we can help reduce the spread of the virus by asking people not to go to the polls on Election Day. Second, moving to August will allow the district to provide more opportunities to communicate with our stakeholders about the positive impact this bond proposal will have on all of us.

Linden Community Schools has always been committed to the students, staff, and community of the Linden Community School District. Our commitment will continue! Working together has always made us stronger, and I believe this situation is no
different. For the good of everyone, please continue to follow the regularly updated guidelines from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html.

Sincerely,

Russ Ciesielski
Superintendent of Schools